Iowa Department of Human Services
CHILD CARE CENTER EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE

Name of Center: Willkie House Inc. **Enrollment:** 71 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 51772

Street: 900 17th ST **City:** Des Moines Iowa **Zip** 50314 **County:** Polk

Mailing Address: 900 17th ST, Des Moines, IA, 50314

Director's Name: Alexandra Rice **Phone Number:** 515-243-7817

On-Site Supervisor(s): **E-Mail:** arice@willkiehouse.org

Date(s) of Visit: 06-21-2024

X **Licensing Visit** X **Unannounced Visit** **Off Year Visit** **Administrative Change**

LICENSING VISITS

New Application X **Re-Application** **NA**

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 05-22-2024

FIRE INSPECTION X **State** **Local** **NA** **Is Fire Inspection Approved?** X **Yes** **No** **NA**

Date Inspected: 04-26-2024

Comments :

LICENSE TYPE: X **Child Care** **Preschool (ages 3-5 meets three hours or less per day)**

Financial Type: Profit X Non-Profit NA

Accredition: Accredited NAEYC NSACA Other X NA

Program Serves: Infants (0-23 mo.) 2 Years Preschool-Age X School-Age

Get-Well Evening Care Special Needs

SCHEDULE: X Year-round School-Year Summer Only

HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General				120	120
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 06-01-2024 to 06-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Melinda Larson, Child Care Licensing Consultant **Date:** 07-02-2024

I. IF CURRENT LICENSE IS PROVISIONAL, IDENTIFY THE CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

The Willkie House has been providing child care services for several years. The center became licensed with DHS in August 2022. The center is located in a single standing building. The center has security cameras throughout the building. The majority of the classrooms used have cameras. The playground and entrance have cameras also. The center provides child care for school age children. The center has provided care for middle school children also but this program isn't licensed by DHS and the program is separate from the licensed program. Alex Rice is the director of the program. Alex has a Masters degree in Public Management and a Bachelors degree in French Studies and a minor in Education. Alex has been employed with the Willkie House since July 2021. She worked with several agencies prior to coming to the Willkie House, including the YMCA, AmeriCorps and United Way.

Mandatory postings are in place at the entrance. Daily schedules/lesson plans are posted at the entrance. On the main level, the center has a gym, kitchen, two small computer labs, two classrooms and two smaller rooms. The lower level has another classroom. The classrooms have age appropriate supplies and furnishings in place. Games, art supplies, toys and books are easily accessible for children in each classroom. The center has large motor play toys and supplies in place in the gym.

An unannounced visit was completed. All areas subject to HHS rules were reviewed. Alex assisted with today's visit. Eleven staff were working today. Forty three children were in attendance. Children were observed in the center and also outdoors. Children were in the classrooms and in the gym. Some children were on a field trip. Children are divided in smaller groups, according to their ages. The groups circulate through the classrooms during the day. Staff communicate with walkie talkies. Children were playing large motor games in the gym. Children were doing art activities and various group and individual games in the classrooms.

The center has a small kitchen on site. Food storage for the snacks was sufficient. Breakfast and lunch are provided through Des Moines Public Schools. The center provides after school snacks. During the school year, afternoon snack and dinner is served. Menus were reviewed and CACFP requirements are followed. Lunch served today was peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, cheese stick, apple sauce and milk. Some children bring their own lunches.

The center has a fenced playground. There are a couple large climbing structures. Wood mulch is used for surfacing. There was mulch recently added. The mulch had some large pieces. Alex is working with the company they purchased the mulch from to get this resolved. There area concrete and grass areas on the playground. There is natural shading. Monthly playground checks are completed.

The center has two vans. These are used for off site field trips. The center picks up children at a couple elementary schools.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center has been providing child care for many years. The center has a gym so children can have large motor play activities daily. Children are provided dinner daily during the school year. The center uses Bright Wheel.

IV. IDENTIFY THE ASPECTS OF OPERATION THAT FALL BELOW THE STANDARDS REVIEWED:

109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that: Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free.
There was a fan sitting on a shelf in the children's classroom.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

This center has a full license.

*Note: If you are the Child Care Center Director and you feel something is unclear or unjustly cited, please contact your DHS Licensing Consultant to discuss the issue. The child care director may also send a response which will be placed in the licensing file.

*Note: If you are a member of the general public, there may be additional information contained in the public file. You may contact the DHS Licensing Consultant to inquire.